



YOUSEQ



YOUSEQ IS AWARDED ISO-13485: INTERVIEW WITH JIM WICKS PHD, FOUNDER AND CEO OF YOUSEQ

March 2021

**You've very recently been awarded the ISO 13485 – congratulations!
How long did the process take for you?**

It's always been part of our business plan. We've had good processes in place from day one but we've accelerated the process getting accreditation due to COVID-19. We started preparing for accreditation properly around 5 months ago.

That's extremely quick, how do you think you managed to achieve it over such a short period of time?

Our team are great and they have lots of experience in the QMS space. Critically they understand the science of what we do too. So they've been able to build an excellent system that works for us really quickly and really efficiently.

You mentioned having a dedicated quality manager, Jo Glasbey, who headed up the project – do you think that's a key requirement when looking to secure ISO?

Totally critical. Jo joined the business back in the Autumn. She is super talented with all the right experience and hit the ground running. She was central to achieving this accreditation so quickly.

Are there any other key points you would share with others looking to achieve ISO 13485?

Don't tick boxes. ISO 13485 is great – it's a powerful tool to help build a stronger business with better processes and products whilst putting patient safety first. But make sure the team who build it understand the science and the business well, otherwise you'll end up with a box ticking system rather than something genuinely useful.

What would you say are the main advantages for YouSeq having the ISO 13485?

Internally it's a bullet proof system to ensure product quality. That's what we really care about. We want to make sure every patient is safe and every customer is delighted with the performance of the products we produce.

Externally it is a badge of confidence. It shows our customers that this business is professional and very serious about quality.

You're known for being a rewarding place to work, how did you and the team celebrate this latest achievement?

A lot of hard work, late nights, hundreds of experiments, and hundreds and hundreds of documents were produced over the last 6 months. We believe in celebrating success and recognizing everyone's valuable contribution so we took the time to celebrate with a little bit of fun making elephant's toothpaste and a great lunch for the whole team.

